

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9, 22 and 35 have been canceled. Thus, Claims 1, 3-21, 23-34 and 36-39 are still pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 14, 25-27, 38 and 39 have been amended. Claims 13, 25, 26, 38 and 39 were amended merely to provide proper antecedent basis in the claims. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 9, 12, 22, 25, 35 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has elected to amend Claims 1, 14 and 27 to incorporate the elements of Claims 9, 22 and 35, respectively. As such, Applicant believes that Claims 1, 14 and 27, and all claims that depend therefrom, are now allowable, and respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance with the next communication.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, 32, 36, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC 102(c) as being anticipated by Ibe et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0218575).

In light of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are overcome. As mentioned above, Applicant has amended

independent Claims 1, 14 and 27 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 22 and 35, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 14 and 27 (and all claims dependent therefrom) are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejections of Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, 32, 36, 37 and 39.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ibe et al. in view of Goss (U.S. Patent Number 6,320,534). Claims 4, 5, 18 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ibe et al. in view of Rajkotia et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0121774). Claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ibe et al. in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0192341). Claims 17 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ibe et al. in view of well known prior art.

In light of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are overcome. As mentioned above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 14 and 27 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 22 and 35, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims dependent from independent claims 1, 14 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejections of Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 21, 30, 31, 33 and 34.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Garlick Harrison & Markison Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (Ref. BP2961).

Respectfully submitted,

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/Holly L. Rudnick/Reg. No. 43,065

Holly L. Rudnick
Attorney for Applicant

Garlick Harrison & Markison

P.O. Box 160727
Austin, TX 78716-0727
(214) 387-8097/office
(214) 387-7949/facsimile